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Date: May 7, 2003

## **Bridge rail repair project scheduled for State Route 26 in Colfax**

A bridge rail repair project will be underway this Spring on the State Route 26/Palouse River bridge, ½ mile west of US 195. Crews from Peterson Brothers, Inc. of Sumner, Washington will replace the deteriorated bridge railings on this structure just to the west of downtown Colfax in Whitman County. The \$300,000 project includes the addition of a new, higher pedestrian railing adjacent to the sidewalk. Work is currently scheduled to start on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The work is expected to take about six weeks.

The concrete railings of this bridge, built in 1938, have deteriorated over the life of the structure. Replacing these rails will extend the service life of the structure and ensure safety for the traveling public.

Because the work requires the contractor to place equipment and personnel on the bridge, a traffic signal system will be used to direct one-way traffic over the bridge for the duration of the project. An important safety measure during the project will be a reduction in the legal speed limit to 35 mph on this section of SR 26.

The WSDOT will also post an off-hours emergency telephone number at the bridge site. That number, 509-397-4341, will enable motorists to contact emergency personnel in case of a malfunction of the traffic signal system. They, in turn, will respond to manage the traffic flow until the signal can resume normal operation.

Ken Olson is the WSDOT project engineer for this work and can be reached at 509-324-6140 for information.

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